

SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

Morning—Evening—Sunday.
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APRIL 18, 1916.

POLICY OF HUSBAND AND WIFE
"GOING BROKE TOGETHER."

In a current magazine there is an article on budget building for families. Articles on household budgets are growing thick as blackberries in women's magazines these days, but this one has a concluding paragraph which is worth thinking about:

"Mrs. Chase and I have liked being partners, and we have enjoyed the perfect equality of our financial relationship. It makes us feel that we are jointly responsible for our home. The monthly hour of accounting is one of the most interesting periods of our life together (when it isn't one of the most tragic!) We are common partners, drawing on a common fund, and while we may go broke, we will go broke together, with our eyes open, and without any mutual recriminations."

Altogether too many families either break up, or live unhappily, because the economic basis of the matrimonial business isn't sound. Often the value of the woman's labor isn't considered in handling the money. Too many husbands whose wives work quite as hard as they do think they are supporting their ladies in idle affluence. Adopting a budget system forces people to think about these things, and serves many a useful purpose besides money-thrift. But the most useful of all is accomplished when it makes of husband and wife real partners, who, if they go broke, will do so cheerfully, knowing they have done their best, "together, with eyes open, and without mutual recriminations."

THE GAS "OCTOPUS" AND ITS RATE SUSTAINING SUBTERRUGES.

Thanks awfully. We at least have the assurance from Pres't Clarence H. Geist of the Northern Indiana Gas & Electric Co. that there will be no compromise or reduction of gas rates in South Bend unless the state public service commission orders it. We hope this will preclude the gas "octopus" from coming around at the last moment, and through its attorneys and otherwise, seeking to make the public believe that they had made some compromise propositions long ago, that the city had refused to accept, and which would have been better for the city, of course, than anything that the commission would allow us. The efforts of the Indiana & Michigan Electric Co., through the same attorneys, and otherwise, to put over that bluff, is still fresh in the public memory.

But Mr. Geist tells us "exactly" why he cannot afford to reduce gas rates. It is, he says, because the local plant is an oil plant, and oil is high, and he can't get it out of Mexico, and plans are under way for the installation of a coal plant here, and a number of other things—all of which is a splendid array of high class bunk, so far as concerns the ability of the gas company to reduce rates. Mr. Geist wasn't pleading poverty for his plants, nor for the Murdoch plants that he recently took over in the Geist-Murdoch gas merger, when he was laying a foundation for a \$5,400,000 bond issue. Yes he succeeded in humbugging the commission sufficiently to get that through, but Mr. Charles J. Murphy, utility darling on the commission, has since resigned—we guess, by request of the governor—and we anticipate in his successor, Mr. Anthony Deahl, a larger sense of public interest.

South Bend, Lafayette and Indianapolis are all affected by that merger. Lafayette has already been offered a 10 per cent reduction from the dollar rate that prevailed there under the Murdochs. The Lafayette consumers who protested against the merger have received that much consideration at least. The scope of the merger, and how it may affect the commission in the local case, is interesting at least. Unless certain phases of it are disregarded by the commission, and the burden of the indicted rat is thrown upon the capitalists, instead of shouldered upon the consumer, reduction of rates would be a difficult matter even if the plants could be operated without any expense whatever.

By the terms of the merger, as permitted and approved by the commission, the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric company, which is controlled by C. H. Geist and other eastern capitalists, was authorized to buy the General Service company and the Indiana Lighting company, otherwise known as the Murdoch interests. The price of the General Service company, as approved by the commission, was \$900,000, and that of the Indiana Lighting company, \$4,500,000. To meet this obligation, the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric company was authorized to issue \$5,400,000 in gold bonds. These bonds are to have a life of ten years, and will bear six per cent interest,—mind you, six per cent.

The decision was an unqualified victory for the corporations. At no point were the reasonable representations of the consumers fully considered. The opinion, from beginning to end, was an attempted justification, first, of the Murdoch interests; second, of the Geist interests, and third, of the public service commission itself. The gentlemen's agreement, reached by Messrs. Geist and Murdoch, was, in effect, induced. The commission refused to do the one thing essential to a proper understanding of the situation—make a physical examination of the Murdoch properties. Instead, taking the valuation figures of the Geist engineer as a basis, it made its own computations, through original "unit prices"—whatever that may mean—and arrived at the conclusion that the Murdoch properties were worth "not less than \$8,632,000."

This was nothing more than a paper—or agreement—valuation. The Murdoch properties already carried bonds in excess of \$3,000,000. The Geist company was authorized to assume responsibility for these, and to

issue against all its property a further obligation of \$5,300,000 in bonds. No one knows the actual worth of the property. It would have cost the commission \$50,000, as it says, to make the valuation and doubtless would have been a great deal of trouble. Furthermore, the commission is not of the opinion that the law requires such a physical examination. "There is not a word in our statute," reads the opinion, "about physical valuation. The language is 'the commission shall value all the property of every public utility actually used and useful for the convenience of the public.'"

The people of Indiana know—and so do the members of the public service commission—that the intent of the utilities law is to establish a just relationship between utility and patron, and to make rates based on the value of a property. To value a property does not mean to accept an agreement or to muss over the estimates which an interested expert has made. To value a utility does not mean to read the protesting consumers a lecture; nor does it mean to excuse the discrepancies between tax valuations and capitalization. To value a utility, under the spirit of the law, means to do exactly that which the public service commission has not done.

For the time being the matter was done with. The corporations had won everything for which they asked; the consumers had lost all, except the reservation by the commission of the "right to fix rates." The right to "fix rates" on what—a paper valuation? The opinion proceeded to state that bond interest "shall not be deemed to be a fixed charge, the payment of which must be provided for in establishing a just and reasonable rate for the securities or products sold," yet the commission practically underwrote those gold bonds which it authorized the Geist monopoly to issue.

"The future prospects and earnings of each corporation," reads the decision, "are promising." Promising to whom? The consumer, or the capitalists, and promising of what? Mr. Geist tells us that the gas company is hard-up. That making money is entirely out of its line. It is going to cost some \$50,000 more to make gas for South Bend next year than it used to cost; that is, he says, unless a coal plant can be installed. He doesn't say anything, however, about that six per cent interest on that \$5,400,000 bond issue, that the consumers must pay—\$324,000 annually—because of the recent merger of gas interests in South Bend, Indianapolis and Lafayette.

WINNING HUSBANDS AFTER THE WAR
A WOMAN'S PROBLEM.

The new problem, "How to Find a Husband After the War," is receiving much attention on the other side of the water. A noted French authoress recently wrote a book on the subject. The Italian periodical "Piccolo" is devoting a column regularly to discussion along this line, and finds the public tremendously interested.

The women who face the prospect of a limited husband supply, because of the war losses, are getting all sorts of more or less useful advice. Some of the advisers suggest a general female migration to America, where there are plenty of men. Some urge girls to avoid the new freedom and self-confidence that has come to so many women because of their assumption of men's work during the war. More than ever, they say, men will admire the old, trustful, modest and obedient feminine type. One wise old lady issues a solemn warning against frivolity. Of all things, she says, that is what the war veteran, sobered by his hard experience, will not tolerate.

Another quotes the counsel given by the old Arab, Sidi Ahmed Ben Arun, to his daughter when she was about to be married. The wife, he said, "must be as earth under the feet of her husband; appear to obey him in all things; never offend his vanity, or his ears with too much talking; and never contradict him. So shall she be both master and mistress in her house."

This last bit of advice may be all right for European women, but it isn't likely to find acceptance in this country. Not that American men are much different from other males in their fondness for imagining themselves lords of their own household—but the American girl isn't built that way. She isn't strong for pretended humility. She prefers to do her bossing directly, without making any bones about it.

INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE END OF THE WAR.

The probable duration of the war is still an interesting problem. The end will certainly bring great changes. It will affect the fortunes of all whose work or money is connected with war orders. It will bring to the front new problems of readjustment of many sorts. It will affect in some way or other nearly all of us.

What are the chances of the war ending this year? Very good, according to the strategists, and also according to the extremely practical insurance men.

Lloyd's, the great British insurance company, which "will take a chance on anything," but whose "chance" is always the result of careful calculation, charges 70 per cent for insuring a business man against losses that will be incurred if the war ends suddenly before the close of the year. Such a rate may be roughly expressed in ordinary betting terms, as seven to three that the war will end before the year is out. Some insurance firms are said to be asking 90 per cent for similar insurance, which may be taken to mean that it's 10 to one the war ends this year.

"If the country's of heroic mind, I'll run," says Roosevelt, and then he goes to table with the ugliest of the standpaters. Golly! but it's a corking test of heroism! Our columns are open to him, if Hi Johnson wants to tell what he thinks about it.

The state food inspector of Michigan has discovered that old potatoes treated in a solution of lye can be made to look like genuine new potatoes. That's interesting; but what we want to know is, whether the tubers so treated taste like new potatoes or soap.

Put Lillenthal, president of United Railways of Frisco, on the list of converts. Says his monopoly isn't a success because of municipal competition and offers to sell out to the city.

Ford says that his beating of William Alden Smith in those Michigan primaries was a victory for peace, Cracker! Is he trying to make out Uncle William Alden is a war god?

Some professional psychologist could make a hit by going up to Portland, Ore., and discovering how it feels to indulge in a spree on hair tonic three per cent alcohol.

Recent birth of the Grandpa Root boomlet forcibly recalls attention to Col. Roosevelt's famous opinion to the effect that the republican convention will take "me or worse."

Baseball, Verdun, Villa, national politics and catfish biting—a prizelight for a championship would make this April simply perfect.

Seems that most all of those "iron rings around Villa" had holes in them, just like ordinary rings.

Winter sometimes lingers in the lap of spring and sometimes squats in the Mississippi basin.

Roosevelt and Root having made up, it is about time for a few of the g. o. p. standpaters to hunt cover,

THE MELTING POT

FILLED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

SPRING POEM.

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.....her hat
.....in view.

SOME ADVICE.

If you happen to be on the main street of a small town and see a bunch of good looking girls ride past several times, don't think they are doing it because you are there. The chances are it's the town's only improved street.

We suppose you might refer to those Mexicans who attacked the United States army trucks at truck warriors.

French in a headline—"Howze men in battle."

Wonderful are the ways of war. We have been reading about the German plinches and now they spring this Carranza trap on us. Still it's not as bad as those French nippers.

Villa is dead, say Mexican reports, but the American public wants to attend the funeral.

News dispatches tell of a battle at Iksuee bridgehead near Smorgon. Now here comes your fun. Guess where this is.

Will some one kindly page T. R.? He hasn't been in print for a week now and we are getting tired of this war.

THE LIFE OF JAKE HECKAMAN.
Chapter 18.

There is one thing in regard to barber shop customs that has always give the riter no little concern. It is a question he has tried to have answered in an agin without success, you mite call it the eternal question of the barbershop if you felt so inclined. The problem is why does a barber always cut your hare first (1st) if you wish both a harecut and a shav. Quiet naturally we hav took the natur up with that well none friend of ours, Mister Jake F. T. A. Heckaman. We ast jake why and he repide why you see we haint always sure but what you mite dye in the chare. If you did youd owe us a biger check because a harecut costs more than a shav. We aloud ourselves the luxury of a shiver as Jake resumed work on our lovely hed of hare. Fred Bryan whose rates is goin to be a shav. Mister Furst, was gettin a electrick message of the

face the other day. He tole Jake not to hurry and giv him a good one. Jake worked awile and finally finished. Mister Bryan obected. He sez the message didnt take long enuf. Jake tole him to come back when his rates was redud and hed giv him a more atended one (1). Of coarse Mister Bryan, whose rates will be redud May furst didnt hav no com back. Jake Heckaman sez men ust to ware so much hare on their faces that a barber had to use harepins on them befor they could leaf the shop lookin haf way descent.

ADAM CROOK.

FILLERS.

The king of England was born there.

Emperor William's first name is William.

The czar of Russia is a Russian.

France was not always a republican.

Mexico at one time was not in the midst of a revolt. The original revolt started there when Adam and Eve had their disagreement. Authorities to the contrary, Mexico shows she was the original garden of Eden.

O! for a poem, an ode or a song.

It doesn't need to be so very long. But it must be snappy, a sure thriller.

Or otherwise I'll need some more filler.

Of course I could write of the war. Or put a joke about a speeding car. But I don't want to do it, but if I must.

I'll write this poem, this ode, or I'll bust.

Ministers and laymen joke and eat at banquet, according to St. Joseph, Mich., paper. Queer banquet. Verrie queer banquet.

APPROPRIATE.

A legal notice in one of the exchanges is headed: "Determination of Heirs."

The worst thing a man can go up against is a Sunday in a dry town where they keep the moving picture show houses closed.

Remember when you were back home and you went out to see the home boys play and the scorer kept yelling "Jones up first, Kelly to follow and Smith in the hole." You thought it all right and proper thing.

When you go back home next time, listen and see how funny it sounds.

With Other Editors Than Ours

NOMINATE ROOSEVELT.
(New York World.)

Describing the sinking of the Lusitania as the greatest insult to which American citizens had ever been subjected, Joseph H. Choate told the chamber of commerce yesterday that "if Mr. Roosevelt were president no foreign nation would dare insult the American flag or American citizens."

Mr. Choate might have said with equal impressiveness that if Mr. Roosevelt were queen of Holland the Tubantia would not have been sunk. Or that if Mr. Roosevelt had been president during the civil war the British government would not have permitted the Alabama to be built by the Lairds.

All these assertions are equally susceptible of proof.

But if Mr. Choate and the members of the chamber of commerce who applauded his speech are confident that Mr. Roosevelt's flat would dominate the world at a time when half a dozen great nations are fighting for their very lives, we respectfully suggest that they use their commanding influence with the republican national convention to bring about Mr. Roosevelt's nomination for president. They represent an element in American affairs that has never failed in the past to sway republican national conventions, and it cannot fail now if they employ it in the way that they best know how to use it.

There are many reasons why Mr. Roosevelt ought to be the republican candidate. The chief reason is that his nomination would make a clean-cut issue between two schools of foreign policy and two vital principles of government. Mr. Roosevelt wants war with Germany and Mexico, which is the most direct method of settling all our differences with those countries, whatever else may be said about it. He also wants to put the United States on a militaristic basis both in respect to the army and navy and in respect to its industries. A Prussianized state is Mr. Roosevelt's ideal of government, and he is the most consistent advocate in the United States of the Prussian theory.

It is possible that the American people want a war lord in the white house and want him to do for them what the kaiser has done for the Germans. It is possible that they want the republic militarized and want its industries Prussianized. It is possible that they are tired of their old free, swinging gait and long for the goosestep and the drill sergeant. It is possible that they want war for war's sake and are eager for the trenches at any cost.

The way to determine all that is to submit it to a referendum of the American people in an election in which the policies, the character and record of the two candidates cannot be obscured; an election in which every citizen must know pre-

cisely what he is voting for. Mr. Roosevelt is the one republican candidate who would make such a campaign possible. He is the one answer the republicans can honestly make to Pres't Wilson.

Mr. Choate and the gentlemen of the chamber of commerce cannot fairly criticize Woodrow Wilson for not being like Theodore Roosevelt unless they are prepared in good faith to use all their political influence to make Mr. Roosevelt the republican candidate for president.

WE DON'T WANT TO ANNEX MEXICO.

(Cleveland Press.)

We don't think much of the occasional warlike editorial we see which declares that our excursion into Mexico should be followed by the subjugation of the Mexicans and the annexation of their country. We don't think that the few editors in the United States who are taking that tack have properly gauged the opinion of the American people.

Public opinion, as we read it, very largely indorses the attitude of Pres't Wilson in this matter. We have a police job in Mexico. Our army is down there to punish Villa and his gang of desperadoes, to clean up the ruffians who are making life miserable and dangerous in northern Mexico and over the border in our own homes, and to put an end to a situation which has been a thorn in the flesh of both republics—Mexico and the United States.

We are going to carry it through to the end. Our countrymen expect that a thorough job shall be done, come what may. We hope there will be no interference. But no matter—interference will be brushed aside with a hand as heavy and as heavy as the hand that will wipe out the Villa bandits. Other Mexicans should understand this from the start and stand aside. If they don't, all the worse for the Mexicans.

The American people do not hanker to conquer their fellow men in the sister republic. They prefer to see them free and independent. We don't want to seize their territory. The greed for the sunny lands and the rich mines of Mexico may tickle the gizzards of the rich monopolists and the Hearsts but no such greed animates the mass of us.

Pres't Wilson has sized up public opinion about right. But he has not been unmindful of a higher consideration—the place of the United States as a world power. He knows that if the United States goes into a great war to conquer Mexico and annex the country, we shall not only take upon ourselves a task that will eat up billions of dollars and snuff out the lives of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers, but that we shall thereby build up a great wall between this nation and the rest of the world. We will be so busy whipping Mexicans, so

STATESMEN GREAT AND NEAR-GREAT

By Fred Kelly.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—James Hamilton Lewis, the best dressed senator, strolled into a Washington clothing store one day last summer to look at a Palm Beach suit. They showed him one which rather appealed to his fancy and when he tried it on the clerk quoted the apt simile about the paper on the wall. However, Lewis hesitated about buying the suit because it was priced only \$9.38. If it had been \$40 or even \$35 he would have taken it without a word, but he seriously questioned if a suit at \$9.38 could be as good as it looked.

"It's a dandy suit," went on the clerk; "I sold one just like it yesterday to Sen. Camden of Kentucky."

Now, Camden, who was a senator then, is a multimillionaire. Lewis at once decided that if the suit was good enough for Camden, it would do for him. Without another word he bade the clerk wrap it up.

"And so Sen. Camden got one of these?" Lewis repeated as he was about to leave the store.

"Yes, sir," said the clerk, "he bought one only yesterday—for his chauffeur."

It is a common practice of members of congress, when out of the city for a day or so, to have a "pair" with some other member, of opposite political faith, when neither one votes and the thing is a stand-off. Rep. Billy Kent of California, however, is unable to pair. He can find no one to pair with—no one that he would take a chance on. For there is no one that thinks exactly unlike Kent on all things—just as there is no one that thinks exactly like him. If he were to pair with somebody, they might have entirely different views on one thing, but be in thorough accord on the next. Kent is enrolled as an independent, and he is the most consistently independent voter in congress. He has no more thought of voting according to any one party, than he would vote according to the color of his eyes. So when he goes away he cannot participate in a pair. The one member of congress that he might take a chance on and form a pair with is Uncle Joe Cannon. It is about a thousand-to-one shot that Cannon and Kent would never be on the same side of any given proposition.

Sen. Warren G. Harding of Ohio is a person of frank and engaging personality. He is agreeable without being flatterer. While he likes to say pleasant things to suggest people, he has an aversion to saying anything that he does not actually mean. When Mark Hanna was in the senate, Harding and he made a long campaign together. One night Hanna told a friend:

"I made a wonderful speech tonight."

"How do you know? Aren't you a little prejudiced?" suggested the friend.

"It was a great speech," insisted Hanna. "I know, because Warren Harding told me so. He never told me such a thing before. You know it's against his religion to say anything is good that isn't."

Schley Howard, Georgia congressman, recently addressed a big meeting in his home state on the value of organization. He illustrated what he had to say by this story:

A colored man driving an ox team was boasting to a white man who was riding with him about his dexterity with a long blacksnake whip. Just to show what he could do, he whirled the whip round and round and cracked it in such a way that it destroyed a bumble bee standing on a clover blossom. Then he cracked a butterfly on the wing. They passed a hornet's nest with two or three hornets standing outside viewing the landscape.

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"Can you hit one of those hornets with your whip cracker?" asked the white man.

"I kin," replied the colored man, "but I ain't. Them things there is 'kanned!'"

John Barrett, head of the Pan-American union in Washington, is said to be the only man in the entire world who has a liveried chauffeur on a Ford.

It is said of George Woolworth, one of the greatest merchants in the world and owner of the highest building that in the days when he was getting his business start, he never borrowed money but once. That was to buy his wife a new silk dress that she wanted.

utterly unable to do anything else, that we will lose our voice in the great international game that is being played stronger still when the day of days—the peace day—dawns across the Atlantic.

The nations of Europe now understand that we are determined to have our say, that we propose to be taken into strict account in international affairs. To insure prosperity for our people we shall demand a front position in the great commercial game that is coming after this war. Foreign commerce we must have on an ever increasing scale. Our trade will decrease rather than increase unless our international position is absolutely insured. We cannot allow our attention to be attracted by the sizzle of an annexation argument.

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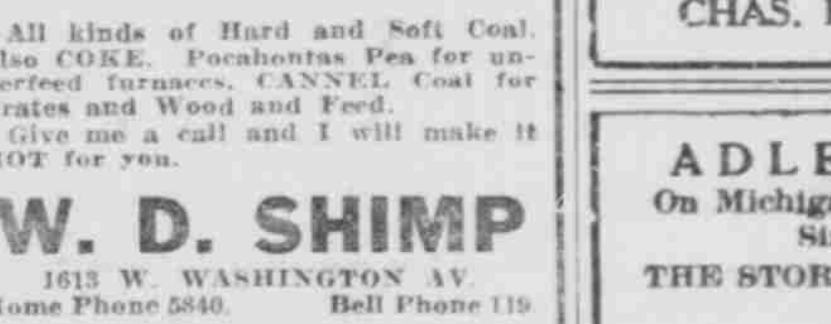


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